

V. 31 Jan 84

NORTH AFRICA

Q 1

ALGERIA

Syria's Khaddam Departs After Brief Visit

JN291658 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT
29 Jan 84

[Text] Algiers — 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Algiers today following a 2-day visit. Khaddam was seen off at Algiers International Airport by Algerian Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim, the Syrian ambassador in Algiers, and the embassy staff.

In a statement before leaving the airport, Khaddam said: I have conveyed a message to President Chadli Bendjedid from his brother, President Hafiz al-Asad, dealing with the situation in the region and the current developments in the Arab arena. He added: The two presidents' viewpoints are identical regarding the evaluation and analysis of the prevailing situation in the Arab homeland and how to confront this situation.

Khaddam said: President Chadli Bendjedid asked me to convey his greetings to his brother, President Hafiz al-Asad.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Interviewed on Chad, France

LD301959 Paris Domestic Service in French 1824 GMT
30 Jan 84

[Interview with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] by unidentified French journalists, on the "Facing the Public" program in Al-Qadhdhafi's office in Tripoli; date not given. Al-Qadhdhafi remarks in Arabic fading into superimposed French translation — recorded] **BF**

[Text] [Correspondent] Before beginning, a question which will enable our French listeners to perhaps better understand what the Libyan Jamahiriyah is: How should we refer to you? Mr President? Colonel? What term should be used?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] First, as concerns the name of the Jamahiriyah — this a word originating from the word Jamahir — that is, the masses. It means the state of the masses.

[Correspondent] Are you called colonel, or Mr President?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] What I object to is president, because there is no president in the Jamahiriyah, nor is there a government, and therefore there is no president. The revolution enables the masses to set up the state of the masses. Therefore, anyone can call me what they wish, except president.

[Correspondent] Then we will call you colonel. To begin then, the first file is Africa. The first question is on Chad. Colonel, after the official request made by the Transitional Government of National Unity [GUNT] of Mr Goukouni Oueddei to Libya, are you ready to issue an order to your army to directly confront the French Army?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Why is the question posed in this way? This means that France has acquiesced to Habre's request. It means that it has agreed to wage a war against Libya. If Goukouni's requests meet with a favorable response on our part, would this mean a declaration of war against France? We would have never thought that the French forces are there to fight the Libyan forces. In fact, Libyan forces in Chad are not there to fight France. What is strange is that the French Government has said that when its forces entered Chadian territory for the first time, they were there in order to train the Chadian forces. That was at the beginning.

Later on it was said that these forces were going to defend the national territory of Chad, and afterwards we heard that these forces were going to conduct operations up to the 16th parallel. Is France's policy then meant to deceive French public opinion and the international public, and is it a plan for gradually occupying Chad?

[Bader] Do you consider the French troops to be troops of occupation in Chad?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes. Now they have without question become forces of occupation, and the Chadians have the right to fight the forces wherever they are to be found.

[Correspondent] When would you consider the situation as a causus belli [as heard] between Libya and France?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Well, so far there is no possibility of confrontation between the two countries. In fact we have no Libyan forces in Chad, and if we do not respond favorably to the requests of the Goukouni government, we shall have to face up to our responsibilities and defend this government and its positions.

[Correspondent] Are there Libyan trainers on the side of Goukouni?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] also your Islamic legion?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is a lie created totally by the Europeans and the Israelis. There is no Islamic legion. This, in fact, is a reflection of the hatred for Islam. It is an expression of capitalism; because the Libyan forces, or the forces of liberation, or the anticolonialist forces are immediately called Islamic forces. In fact, this reflects a renewal of the crusader spirit.

[Correspondent] Colonel, is it true that the Libyans advised Goukouni Oueddei not to attack the French militarily? I heard that this morning from a good source.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] For a long time we have been trying to convince him not to attack the French forces. But at present we cannot control him. And neither can we convince him not to attack the French forces, especially since the French forces have become involved in the civil war in Chad, and have now become occupation forces. It is his absolute right to oppose foreign forces in his country. As a result, there exists only one government, the Transitional Government of National Unity.

V. 31 Jan 84

Q 2

NORTH AFRICA

[Correspondent] Can we come back to recent events? Who fired the SAM-7 which downed the French Jaguar? Was it the army of Goukouni Oueddei, or was it the Libyan military advisers?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] First of all, no missile caused the loss of these two planes. It is a lie. We know that a machine gun was used to shoot down these planes. These machine guns are used everywhere in Chad, by both sides. So the missile is a lie to mislead French public opinion. And unfortunately, our friend Mr Mitterrand has allowed himself to slide onto an absurd path. We are going to try to keep him standing, to stop him from falling over.

[Correspondent] The failure of the Addis Ababa summit has shown the impotence of the OAU and of the Chadians themselves to settle the conflict. Do you think that it would be useful to strengthen direct contact between France and Tripoli so as to influence the parties in Chad?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] We welcome the participation of all parties — whether Libyan, French or Chadian — in order to resolve this problem peacefully. The failure of negotiations in Addis Ababa does not at all point to a weakness of the OAU or of the African continent. In fact, this reflects the inability of Hissein Habre to resolve the Chadian problem. This also proves that Hissein Habre depends on the French forces of occupation, or perhaps that he cannot do anything and that the French forces are occupying Chad militarily and trying to ensure the failure of these negotiations, if I may say so.

[Correspondent] You speak of the GUNT as being the legal government of Chad, and you send Hissein Habre elsewhere than to government [as heard]. However, one must say that Hissein Habre is recognized by most OAU member countries as the president of Chad, and no solution can be found as long as Hissein Habre is not considered an acceptable partner.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Look, not long ago the legitimate government was that of Goukouni, and this was stated during an OAU conference. Naturally, Habre took Ndjamena by force, and therefore he conquered legitimacy. Well, Goukouni can do the same.

[Correspondent] Since you speak precisely of this attack by Hissein Habre that succeeded against Ndjamena, one can go back to what happened in the last few days. You have just denied that a SAM-7 was fired at a French aircraft; you spoke about a machine gun. But it still remains that the French forces have moved north and that two places are involved, Oum Chalouba and Koro Toro. Oum Chalouba is a junction that makes it possible to reach Sudan and — through Sudan — Egypt. Do you Libyans consider this junction as vital for your security, or do you believe that French troops can move still further north without endangering the security of Libya?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Naturally, French forces moving north — well this concerns us directly, but this last statement about moving the forces from the 15th to the 16th parallel does not mean anything. I am not going to attack Mitterrand or tarnish his image in the eyes of French public opinion, and therefore I do not want to speak about this issue. Now, as far as Oum Chalouba and Koro Toro are concerned, French forces have neither the

right to enter these regions nor defend them. There would be a direct confrontation between the Goukouni forces and any force operating in these two regions.

[Correspondent] The occupation of Oum Chalouba or Koro Toro would for you be the straw that breaks the camel's back?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Well, this does not concern us Libyans. I speak of the Goukouni forces. I think that these forces will confront any forces, whether French or others, which touch these two regions. If such forces are French, then it would mean that France has decided to be a full party to the civil war in Chad.

[Correspondent] Then you are denying in advance any involvement of Libyan troops in the combat that might take place in the coming days?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes, so far. Except if Libya acquiesces to Goukouni's request by sending in forces in order to balance the French support for the Habre forces. This would mean, in fact, that France would have to brace itself for a war similar to the Algeria war. I do not think that the French people would want to go through this painful experience again.

[Correspondent] Before passing to the second issue, the Middle East, a last question on Chad. Colonel, can one envisage in Chad a government without Goukouni Oueddei or Hissein Habre? In other words, the arrival of a third man who would have the approval of both Libya and France?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] In fact, Goukouni has already said that he does not want power, unlike Hissein Habre who wants power and does not want to negotiate. We believe that France is backing a party that does not want to leave power, refuses peace, and does not want to negotiate.

[Correspondent] Let us now have a complete change of region, but a region just as uneasy — the Near East. Colonel, the recent Islamic summit in Casablanca has half opened, in some ways, the door to Egypt, which was excluded 5 years ago for signing the peace treaty with Israel. Libya opposed this, and appeared very isolated with Syria. Do you think that you can prevent — for much longer — the return of Egypt, where 45 million Arabs and Muslims live, to the fold of the Islamic and Arab world?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] First of all, Egypt is still not an ICO member, because its return depends on its renunciation of the Camp David accords. This is not a Libyan decision. It is a decision adopted by the Islamic summit. If Egypt abandons the Camp David accords, we see no objections to Egypt's return. So we are not the only ones against Egypt; the entire conference declared that the return is conditional on abandoning the Camp David accords. Do not forget that the Arab summit and the Arab League will not accept Egypt's return without their abandoning the Camp David accords. Even if Libya does not attend the Arab summit, well this summit will not accept Egypt's return before it abandons the Camp David accords.

[Correspondent] You are now in a minority on this issue. The majority of Arab countries seem to have joined the moderates who want a diplomatic solution and not a military one.